

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for fabricating a slider comprising the steps of:
fabricating a plurality of transducers on a wafer including an overcoat layer;
etching a trench in the overcoat layer; and
slicing the wafer into slider bars having a plurality of sliders formed therealong and fabricating air bearing surfaces for the plurality of sliders along the slider bar having a trailing edge defined by a recessed surface of the etched trench.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the overcoat layer is an Alumina overcoat layer and the trench is formed in the Alumina overcoat layer.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the air bearing surfaces of the plurality of sliders along the slider bar are formed using a photoalignment masking process.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the recessed surface of the trench forms a trailing edge for a raised bearing surface of the slider.
5. The method of claim 1 and further comprising the step of:
planarizing the slider or wafer prior to etching the trench.
6. A method for fabricating a slider comprising the step of:
fabricating a trench having a recessed trench surface spaced from a trailing end surface of the slider to form a trailing edge of a raised bearing surface of the slider defined by an etched depth of the trench of the slider.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the trench is fabricated at a wafer level prior to slicing the wafer into slider bars to form a plurality of sliders therealong.
8. The method of claim 7 and further comprising the step of:
forming air bearing surfaces on the slider bar after slicing the slider bar from the wafer.
9. A head comprising:
a slider having a transducer portion fabricated proximate a trailing end of the slider; and
a trench in an overcoat layer of the transducer portion forming a trailing edge of the slider and the trailing edge having a recessed dimension relative to a trailing end surface of the slider defined by an etched depth of the trench of the slider.
10. The head of claim 9 wherein the overcoat layer is an Alumina layer.
11. The head of claim 9 wherein the transducer portion includes inductive and/or magnetoresistive transducer elements.
12. The head of claim 9 wherein the trench forms a trailing edge of a raised bearing surface of the slider.